

Charter for the 2015 Town of Plaistow Renewable Committee

The Board of Selectmen (BOS) hereby establishes an ad-hoc committee to be known as the “2015 Town of Plaistow Renewable Energy Committee” to function for a period of up to 12 months. The committee is being established to review the efficiency of Plaistow’s current energy operations relative to costs and to the delivery of services to residents.

Purpose:

The purpose of the 2015 Town of Plaistow Renewables Committee is to determine what ways, if any, Plaistow can reorganize its operations so as to deliver services to residents in a more cost efficient manner.

Membership:

Each member of the Board of Selectmen will appoint a member to the Committee and the composition of the committee shall have a maximum membership of 7 members, including a Selectman representative. Members shall not be paid employees or relatives of employees of the town. The committee shall elect its own chairperson and secretary. Ideally, at least three members will have experience in renewable energy including that of municipal government and the private sector.

Objectives:

The Committee should:

1. Evaluate the effectiveness of Plaistow’s current energy and renewable initiatives relative to best management practices within municipalities of similar size in the region.
2. Consider State and Federal initiatives intended to ‘help’ municipalities improve operational efficiency with energy and environmental sustainability, paying attention to any deadlines and time to complete.
3. Consider the direction of technology into the future and its potential to improve Plaistow’s energy and renewable initiatives;
4. Consider those characteristics of Plaistow that enable a renewable initiative.

The Committee may consider practices in other sized communities and in other states, but for practical reasons the focus should be on New Hampshire Municipalities.

Activities:

The Committee may consider doing one or more of the following to assist in achieving its objectives:

- Review the efforts of other communities to implement renewable energy projects.
- Conduct site visits to communities that have advanced renewable projects.
- Identify the perceived strengths and weaknesses in Plaistow’s energy expenditures by meeting with town boards, committees and commissions as well as department heads.

The Committee shall make quarterly progress reports to the BOS. During its studies, the Committee may seek additional guidance [beyond that of the charter] from the BOS.

Deliverables:

The Committee shall report its finding to the BOS and suggest ways, if any, to improve the efficiency of town government operations. The Committee may include more than one alternative for the Board’s consideration. For any suggestions, the Committee shall include pros and cons. The Committee may include cost-benefit analysis and time constraints. The Committee shall complete its mission within twelve months. The BOS may opt to extend the Committee.